

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 13, 2007

The Honorable Michael Chertoff
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Nebraska and Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20393

Dear Secretary Chertoff:

We write today to ask that you provide the State of New Jersey with sufficient funding under the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007. We strongly believe that the greatest responsibility of the federal government is to ensure the protection of our citizens. One such way that the Department of Homeland Security can advance this cause is by providing adequate UASI funding to those regions throughout the nation that are at the highest risk of being attacked.

As the most densely-populated state in the nation, our home state of New Jersey certainly has a heightened risk of being attacked by terrorists. In fact, in recent weeks we learned of multiple threats against New Jersey's tallest building, a main branch of Goldman Sachs located in Jersey City, New Jersey. The threats made against the places and people of New Jersey are real and require a robust federal response to protect our citizenry. As DHS finalizes the funding levels of the FY 07 UASI grants we ask you to take the increased threats against the people and infrastructure of New Jersey into consideration and provide sufficient funds to protect our people.


As a native New Jerseyan, you well know that New Jersey is a prime target for terrorist activity. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has placed more than a dozen New Jersey sites on the "National Critical Infrastructure List" and has called the area between Port Newark and Newark International Airport the "most dangerous two miles in the United States when it comes to terrorism." Our state requires a greater portion of homeland security aid due to its vast number of targets, such as the third largest port in America, the fifth largest oil refinery capacity in the nation, and a large concentration of chemical and pharmaceutical plants. Newark Liberty International Airport is the 22nd busiest airport in the world. Also, nearly 60 percent of all the containerized maritime cargo handled by North Atlantic ports goes through the Port of New York and New Jersey and the vast majority of that cargo flows through New Jersey's docks onto our rails, tunnels and roads.

Since FY 03, Congress has directed DHS to target UASI funding to high-threat, high-density urban areas to assist in building security capacity. We believe DHS has not dedicated sufficient funding to high-risk areas like New Jersey—a situation that should be corrected immediately. We ask for your assistance in addressing previous shortcomings in federal homeland security assistance to New Jersey during the FY 07 UASI grant process.

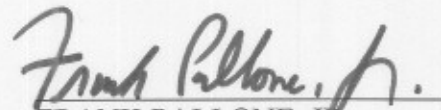
In light of the upcoming announcement of the FY07 UASI grant awards we respectfully ask for your prompt attention to this matter. We look forward to your reply.

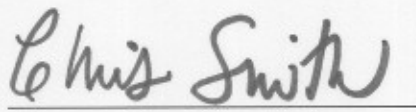
Sincerely,

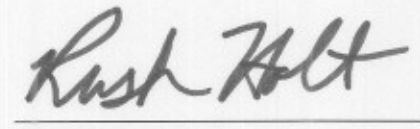

STEVEN R. ROTHMAN
Member of Congress

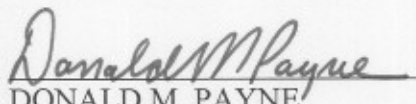

ALBIO SIRES
Member of Congress

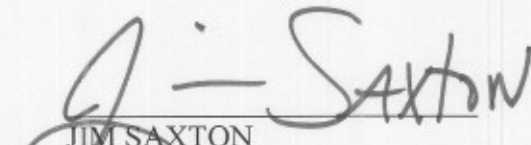

SCOTT GARRETT
Member of Congress



FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress


CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress

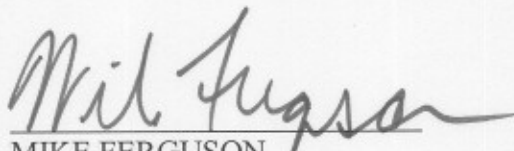

RUSH D. HOLT
Member of Congress


DONALD M. PAYNE
Member of Congress

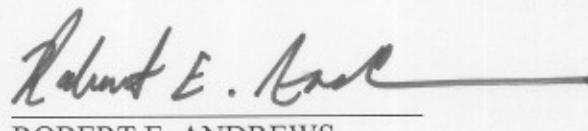

JIM SAXTON
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